

# SCREEN SCENE

Video World meanders through the movie world and checks out some future delights in store for you.

## FLATLINERS

Here's the big one. It's life after death ahoy! Oops, *Flatliners* looks like a serious 'un. As it turns out, Joel Schumacher's (*The Lost Boys*, *St Elmo's Fire*) movie smacks more of *Carry On Frankenstein* than yer average *World In Action*-type prog. Plot? Well, an inquisitive group of medical students get bored with hacking up bodies for post mortems and decide the real fun is to be had in a dalliance with death in that twilight world between here and the hereafter. Here, the flatline of the title is achieved when those bed-side graphs reach a flatline (well, you've seen *Angels*, haven't you?), indicating that each has well and truly snuffed it... temporarily, at least. Pretty woman Julia Roberts (she sure is!), Kiefer Sutherland, the seriously hammy Kevin Bacon et al experience different things whilst 'out of the body' and return to life among mere mortals with a whole new perspective on things - Julia's haunted by her druggie daddy and Kiefer by a kid he bullied at school.

Of course, there has to be a huge great moral stuck somewhere in this lot and there is; namely, don't crap on people in life because they'll make things pretty bloody miserable for you in death! It's as subtle as a spot of ballroom dancing with Vinny Jones and potentially as painful - it goes nowhere new and digs up a provocative subject only to bury it in clichés and Tinseltown waffle.

*Flatliners* is, sadly, flat as a pancake and not the dead good entertainment it threatened to be.



## TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

Alright, the little green bastards are here. The cartoon becomes reality, eight year olds up and down the country wet themselves in anticipation. So, why should a big, mature adult like yourself be remotely interested in the activities of pizza-eating geeks vertes like these? 'Coz Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello and Michelangelo will crack you up quicker than you can say, 'Cowabunga!' These lean, mean, green machines were built for



laughs and when you add to this jolly equation a half-decent story you start to understand why this movie is now the most successful independently produced title ever made.

We're not going soft here, promise. But when you've got four guys charging around clad in green plastic and searching for the next slice of pizza, you gotta laugh. When the four foot talking rat, Splinter, is seized by the bad guys you're gonna want those talking turtles to lay down their Four Seasons to go and rescue him. We wouldn't lie to you!

In these days of the big budget, the loathsome Master Of The Universe and PacMan, it's reassuring to see that the kids still go for 'em cute and a little bit stupid. Not that stupid tho' - this has already taken \$80m in the States. Wanna bet it stakes out a large pizza the box office action here?





## YOUNG GUNS II

Howdy pardners. How's about moseying down to your local Odeon, supping a few cold brews - like 7UP - and fixing yer peepers on the sequel to *Young Guns*. Yes siree, the boys are back in town but this time with a very fine leading lady in the very shapely form of ex-porn star, Ginger Lynn.

The story goes that Billy The Kid, Pat Garrett and the rest of the crew are tiring of life on the run. When one of their number turns traitor, it's only a matter of time before the last gang in town becomes just that. Plenty of guns are toted, Kiefer Sutherland in particular is made up to look at least ten years older than he actually is and, sad to report, the whole thing comes over very much as a designer Western. And whereas you could damn well believe big John Wayne hacking his way through tribes of Injuns, pausing only to polish off some corrupt officials, *Young Guns II* is about as believable as your average party political broadcast.

Still, that Ginger Lynn looks awful

pretty and with Jon Bon Jovi blasting out over the soundtrack, you can't go entirely wrong. *Young Guns II* is more of a whimper than a bang, though.

## THE EXORCIST III

It's seventeen years since the young priest Father Damien Karras died while performing an exorcism on a 12 year old girl (played by Linda Blair) living in Georgetown, Washington. Every year on the anniversary of Karras's death, Lieutenant Kinderman (played gruffly by George C. Scott, following Lee J. Cobb's death), the policeman who investigated the case meets Damien's friend, Father Dyer, (Ed Flanders) to go to the cinema to cheer each other up.

Meanwhile, Kinderman is perplexed by a series of vicious murders that seem to follow a pattern of a killer that he knows to be dead. The murderer claims yet more victims - a priest, a nurse, a young boy and Father Dyer. While visiting the hospital where Dyer was killed Kinderman enters the mental ward where in a cell he sees someone he believes to be Damien Karras (Jason Miller reprises the role for which he was nominated for an Oscar) but he knows the priest is dead - or is he? Who is the killer? How does Father Damien know so much about the murders? Could he be the killer? No, surely that's impossibly ridiculous, but then... This is one case Kinderman is determined to solve come what may.

Most sequels are not a patch on the original - vis *Exorcist II* is dreadful and nothing like the first film.

William Peter Blatty (the author) refused to have anything to do with *Exorcist II* but was persuaded to return to write and direct this film. It seems for the first hour or so this film has no real direction. It spends such an inordinate amount of time giving graphic details of the murders without showing anything, that one gets the feeling one is watching an episode of *Columbo* or *Kojak*.

Come on guys, this is supposed to be a horror film. Was this really from the same pen that wrote *The Exorcist*? You would never know.

The film has some big names in the cast but fails to utilise them. George C. Scott acts like General Patton on Mogadon while Nicol Williamson is reduced to what is really a cameo role. Having said that at least the ending was in the spirit of the original film, but frightening? Nah! You can safely turn the lights out when you watch this one.

